

3 May 1977

Statement For Release to the Press Concerning the Article
in Aviation Week Space Technology of May 2 on Soviet
Charged Particle Beam Weapon Activities

The Central Intelligence Agency (and most of the intelligence community) does not believe the Soviet Union has achieved a breakthrough which could lead to a charged particle beam weapon capable of neutralizing ballistic missiles. The question has been the subject of intensive analysis for a number of years, and the results of those studies, including both concurring and dissenting views, have been made available to high level US government officials on a continuing basis.

1. There is no doubt that Soviet ties with Ethiopia's present Leftist regime are closer than those which the US had established. At the same time, however, the apparent Soviet gains in Ethiopia have led to a deterioration in its formerly close relations with Somalia.

2. The policy followed by the present Ethiopian government since it came to power in 1974 has been increasingly leftist and anti-Western, as well as being in violation of the most basic human rights within Ethiopia. While we regret to see a loosening in our long-standing ties with the Ethiopian people, it is unlikely -- given the present regime in Addis Ababa -- that the US could have prevented this cooling in relations. **We hope that this regime is not a permanent** one, however; so we look forward to an eventual restoration of friendly links to Ethiopia.